



PLANT FACT SHEET

Canthium oligocarpum Hiern

GENUS *Canthium* FAMILY Rubiaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Bark

The fleshy fruit are eaten as a snack.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub or tree. It can be 2-20 m tall. The trunk and branches have sharp spines. Young trees have spines in groups of 2-3 on the trunk. These can be 2 cm long. They occur as 2 or 3 together. The bark is grey and smooth. It loses its leaves for a short time. Old leaves turn red. The leaves are opposite or in rings or 3 or 4. They are narrowly oval and 3-14 cm long. The tip is long but blunt. The leaves are papery and dark above but paler underneath. The flowers are white to yellow. They are in loose heads that hang down. The flowers are small and tube shaped and about 25 occur in a group. They are greenish-yellow. The fruit hang in loose bunches. They have 2 lobes and a notch at the tip. They are about 2 cm long. There are 2 seeds in each.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in mountain rainforest. It grows in the forest understorey. It suits humid locations. It grows in moist forest between 1,800-2,200 m above sea level in Tanzania.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds.

Harvesting and Seed Production

In Tanzania fruit are collected from April to June.

NOTES

There are about 60-200 *Canthium* species.

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